

predator. And in addition, provides immunity for state and local law enforcement officials on good faith actions under the act. I would urge the body to adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek, on the Abboud amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Good morning. I would like to...good morning, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. At the time Senator Abboud put in 645, I also put in a bill and so did Senator Wesely, and I'd like to thank Senator Wesely, Senator Abboud, and all the others who signed on to all those bills for their concern with this issue. I think it came to light because of the federal crime bill that went to...that went through. That if you look at the map that Senator Abboud has passed out, Nebraska stands alone in the middle of this country. We used to be the white spot of the nation for our taxes, now it looks like the black spot of the nation for not complying with this bill in a timely manner, or this issue in a timely manner. And I, and I'm very happy to say that we're correcting that with this piece of legislation. I'm in support of the Abboud amendment. I've made 645 my priority bill this year. And I'd like to thank Senator Abboud and his office for working with my office on some of the, some of the issues that were addressed in my bill and Senator Wesely's bill that may not have been in Senator Abboud's bill and reconciling with this amendment those, those areas that we need to have in the piece of legislation in order for it to comply with the federal piece of legislation and to be one of the best pieces of legislation in this area, I think in the country. There's a lot of issues that, that this bill brings to mind, but I think my first reaction is always as a mother. And most of the people that I talk to, within my district, who have talked about this issue, their reaction is as parents to this piece of legislation. Roy Stephens, who heads the Missing Youth Foundation, who is also a friend of mine from the Millard Jaycees, brought this issue to me because of his involvement in the Missing Youth Foundation and seeing the need to have this passed in the state of Nebraska. And he has been doing a lot of speaking engagements across the state of Nebraska and has had overwhelming support for this piece of...this type of legislation, this piece of legislation, in particular, because they've been very closely watching the entire process. We had really good hearings last year in Judiciary, people coming from all over the state talking about the need for this, from law enforcement, parents who've been involved in this issue, talking